



90 RF 7126



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November 30, 1990

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CCEM PRIORITIES

DOE-RFO has provided EG&G with an opportunity to review CCEM's "Draft Research Needs" paper and to offer the following comments. EG&G feels that this initial listing of research problem areas covers most pertinent issues, and we offer the following interpretations and expansions.

Your draft Research Needs Paper has the foresight to consider not only restoration technology but also the process of first defining the goals of restoration activities. This process is so important that we'd propose the "Monitoring" and "Regulatory Process and Public Involvement" categories be made CCEM's highest priorities.

A. Highest Priority

Regulatory Process and Public Involvement

If society is to call for the committing of public or private resources to remedy environmental problems, it is critical that we solve the actual (not apparent) problems and that unambiguous and appropriate performance requirements be developed against which proposed remedies may be evaluated.

Our challenge is to provide a citizen participation program which addresses these issues by informing the public of the issues, of how the issues affect their quality of life, and of why the issues are significant, while extending an invitation to work together to resolve differences. The program should identify key audiences and stakeholders. A plan, that identifies which public participation techniques should be used to reach these groups and which solicits public involvement, needs to be developed and implemented.

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Monitoring

Real-time or short-time in-situ monitoring for:

- Radionuclides (specific isotopes) down to 0.05 pCi/l for Am or Pu in water and 0.9 pCi/gm of Pu in soils, and
- Organics (specific compound, or broad classes) down to 5 ug/l in water or for soils TCLP extract concentrations such as 0.005 mg/l for TCE or carbon tetrachloride

would be invaluable for activities such as defining the extent of contamination for, monitoring effluent (or residual) quality from treatment works and monitoring public and worker safety during construction.

Improved hydrogeological characterization techniques worthy of investigation include:

- Noninvasive techniques such as improved ground-penetrating radar or surficial seismic characterization,
- Improved drilling techniques to allow obtaining undisturbed samples,
- In-situ determination of groundwater direction, velocity, and mass flow rates.

B. Second Priority

Second priority activity groups include "Soil Remediation," "Waste Minimization," and "Groundwater" categories. Item 3 within "Groundwater" calls for identification of appropriate treatment technologies; this development effort should be paralleled by a similar program to develop treatment technologies to upgrade impacted surface waters. This latter effort may also be encompassed within the "Non-Point Source Drainage" category.

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We hope that these initial comments are of assistance and look forward to active participation in the evolution of the Colorado Center for Environmental Management's environmental program.



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